

## Message Text

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14

ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 SS-15 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

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O R 060720Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2343

INFO AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 1003

FOR SECRETARY OF TREASURY SIMON FROM AMBASSADOR MACOMBER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, SIMON, WILLIAM E.

SUBJ: OFFICIAL TRAVEL OF SECRETARY SIMON

REF STATE 21461

1. I AM VERY PLEASED TO HEAR THAT YOU ARE CONSIDERING A REST STOP IN TURKEY AT THE CLOSE OF YOUR HECTIC FORTHCOMING MIDDLE EAST TRIP. ALL OUR PERSONNEL HERE WILL BE MOST HAPPY TO ASSIST YOU IN ANY WAY WE CAN TO MAKE THIS VISIT A PLEASANT AND INTERESTING ONE.

2. THERE ARE TWO PROBLEMS, HOWEVER, WHICH I MUST BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION - ONE SERIOUS, ONE NOT SO SERIOUS. THE LATTER IS THAT YOUR PRESENT SCHEDULE CALLS FOR A FULL WORKING DAY IN THE COUNTRY (I.E., NOT ON A WEEKEND). NORMALLY, SENIOR TURKISH OFFICIALS WOULD EXPECT TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR TALKS WITH A VISITOR OF YOUR OFFICIAL RANK AND RESPONSIBILITIES. THIS PROBLEM WOULD BE EASED IF YOUR STAY HERE COULD BE ENTIRELY ON THE WEEKEND BUT IF THAT IS NOT POSSIBLE I THINK IT COULD BE HANDLED IN ANOTHER WAY. THAT IS, I SUGGEST THAT ABOUT TEN DAYS IN ADVANCE OF YOUR VISIT YOU FORWARD THROUGH ME A MESSAGE TO THE MINISTER OF FINANCE YILMAZ ERGENEKON IN ANKARA EXPLAINING THE BRIEF NATURE OF YOUR REST STOP ELSEWHERE

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IN TURKEY. THIS GESTURE, I BELIEVE, SHOULD TAKE CARE

OF THIS PROBLEM, ALTHOUGH IT RUNS SOME RISK THAT HE MIGHT COME BACK PRESSING FOR A MEETING OR THE OPPORTUNITY TO HOST A SOCIAL EVENT. I THINK THE LATTER CAN BE HEADED OFF BUT IT IS A POSSIBILITY I CANNOT COMPLETELY DISMISS. THE SECOND AND FAR MORE IMPORTANT CONCERN HAS TO DO WITH THE PHYSICAL SECURITY OF YOU AND YOUR PARTY. ISTANBUL HAS FOR SOME TIME NOW BEEN A TURBULENT FOCAL POINT FOR SERIOUS UNREST AMONG STUDENTS. WE DO NOT RPT NOT HAVE A BEIRUT SITUATION ON OUR HANDS BY ANY MEANS, BUT THERE HAS BEEN A STEADY SERIES OF TURKISH STUDENTS KILLING OTHER TURKISH STUDENTS, INTERTWINED WITH SEVERAL RECENT BOMBINGS OF US INSTALLATIONS. TO ADD TO THE PROBLEM, THE EXTRAORDINARILY CONGESTED CHARACTER OF ISTANBUL COMPLICATES THE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS WHICH MUST BE LAID ON FOR IMPORTANT OFFICIAL VISITORS, ESPECIALLY FOR A LARGE GROUP. FOR THESE REASONS, DURING A RECENT VISIT TO ANKARA SECRETARY KISSINGER'S TENTATIVE PLANS ALSO TO VISIT ISTANBUL WERE CANCELLED AT THE REQUEST OF TURKISH SECURITY OFFICIALS. I REGRET TO SAY THAT ISTANBUL HAS SUBSEQUENTLY SEEN AN INCREASE OF DISTURBANCES. IN ADDITION, THE PERIOD IN WHICH YOU ARE PLANNING YOUR VISIT FOLLOWS SHORTLY AFTER THE REOPENING OF THE SAME UNIVERSITIES WHICH HAVE BEEN CENTERS OF THE VIOLENCE AND KILLINGS THAT HAVE OCCURRED. THE AREAS OF THE BEST HOTELS ARE VERY CLOSE TO ONE OF THE MOST TURBULENT CAMPUSES. THE MAIN SIGHTSEEING AREA IS VERY CLOSE TO ANOTHER.

FOR THESE REASONS I RECOMMEND AGAINST YOUR COMING TO ISTANBUL AT THIS TIME, ESPECIALLY WITH A LARGE PARTY. IF YOUR OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED YOU TO BE THERE THAT WOULD BE A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT MATTER, BUT I DO NOT THINK THE SECURITY RISK INVOLVED SHOULD BE RUN FOR A REST STOP. FRANKLY, I AM NOT ONLY THINKING OF YOU AND YOUR PARTY'S SECURITY, BUT ALSO OF THE VERY HEAVY EXTRA BURDEN THIS VISIT OF APPROXIMATELY 40 PEOPLE WOULD PUT ON THE CURRENTLY VERY MUCH BELEAGUERED TURKISH SECURITY PERSONNEL THERE.

3. I WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE TWO ALTERNATIVES FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION. IN ADDITION TO ISTANBUL, TURKEY HAS A NUMBER OF OTHER VERY INTERESTING AND SCENIC PLACES, PARTICULARLY ALONG  
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ANY OF ITS AEGEAN COASTS, ALTHOUGH THEIR ATTRACTION IS LESSENNED IN THE WINTER. AN EXAMPLE IS THE IZMIR AREA, WHICH IS A PARTICULARLY BEAUTIFUL AND HISTORIC REGION. IT IS CLOSE TO EPHEBUS, ONE OF THE GREAT ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES OF THE ANCIENT WORLD. IZMIR IS ALSO THE LOCATION OF A MAJOR NATO COMMAND HEADQUARTERS AND HAS VERY GOOD HOTELS AND FACILITIES.

YOU WOULD ALSO BE MOST WELCOME IF YOU COULD COME TO

ANKARA,ALTHOUGH IT TOO IS SOMEWHAT LIMITED IN THINGS TO SEE AND DO IN THE WINTERTIME. NEVERTHELESS, THE EMBASSY RESIDENCE IS LARGE AND COMFORTABLE AND WOULD BE IDEAL FOR A REAL REST STOP. IT HAS A TOTAL OF FIVE GUEST BEDROOMS, AND MY WIFE, PHYLLIS, AND I WOULD BE MOST PLEASED AND GREATLY HONORED TO HAVE YOU AND MRS. SIMON AND A NUMBER OF YOUR COLLEAGUES AS GUESTS IN OUR HOME. THERE IS ALSO A VERY COMFORTABLE, MODERN HOTEL ABOUT A FIVE-MINUTE DRIVE FROM OUR RESIDENCE THAT COULD ACCOMMODATE THE REMAINDER OF YOUR PARTY. WE COULD HAVE A SMALL COCKTAIL PARTY AT THE RESIDENCE TO WHICH I WOULD INVITE THE FINANCE MINISTER AND OTHER KEY OFFICIALS, AND THAT SHOULD ADEQUATELY TAKE CARE OF ANY PROTOCOL PROBLEM.

4. I FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT YOUR VISIT TO TURKEY IS PLANNED AS A REST STOP AFTER A RATHER STRENUOUS TWO WEEK VISIT IN THIS AREA. NEVERTHELESS, IF YOU DO NOT RPT NOT COME TO ANKARA BUT DO GO TO IZMIR, I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO CALL ON YOU THERE TO TALK FOR PERHPAS AN HOUR ABOUT THE US-TURKISH RELATIONSHIP, WHICH IS OF KEY SECURITY INTEREST TO THE US AND WHICH IS NOW IN SERIOUS DIFFICULTY.

5. PLEASE LET ME KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS RE THE ABOVE. IN THE MEANTIME I WISH YOU MUCH SUCCESS IN YOUR FOTHCOMING MISSION.

MACOMBER

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